

XXX.—*Note on the Steatomys of Angola.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

BY the kindness of Prof. Barboza du Bocage the British Museum has received a large number of the small mammals on which his recent papers on the Mammals of Angola were based, and amongst them are a pair of the animal referred by him* to *Steatomys edulis*, or, as it ought to be called, *S. pratensis* †, Peters. In so referring it, however, he remarks on the great difference in size which exists between the Angolan and Mozambique forms—a difference which, on direct comparison of specimens from both localities, I am disposed to consider as of fully specific value. This being the case, the Angolan form will need a new specific name, and I cannot apply to it a better one than that of Prof. Bocage himself, whose invaluable papers on the mammals of that country form an epoch in the advancement of our knowledge of African mammalogy.

Steatomys Bocagei, sp. n.

Much larger than *S. pratensis* and with a longer tail, but with proportionally rather shorter ears. Skull apparently quite similar in form to that of the Zambesi animal, except that the bullæ seem to be rather broader and more flattened and the infraorbital foramina more widely open. The decided difference in size is best shown by the comparative skull-measurements given below.

Dimensions of an adult female in spirit:—

Head and body 97 millim.; tail 57; hind foot 18·2; ear (above crown) 11·4.

Skull-dimensions of the above female and of a fully adult specimen of the same sex from Mozambique, collected and determined by Prof. Peters, and which may therefore be looked upon as a co-type of *S. pratensis*:—

	<i>S. Bocagei.</i>	<i>S. pratensis.</i>
Basal length	23·9	20·1
Greatest breadth	13·9	12·0
Nasals, length	11·0	9·5
Interorbital breadth	4·0	3·8

* J. Sci. Lisb. (2) v. p. 17 (1890).

† MB. Ak. Berl. 1846, p. 258. In his larger work (Säug. Mossamb. p. 163, 1852) Peters altered the name into *S. edulis*, but the alteration is, of course, quite invalid. The same remark applies to *Saccostomus lapidarius*, Pet. (1852), which ought to stand as *S. campestris*, Pet. (1846).

	<i>S. Bocagei.</i>	<i>S. pratensis.</i>
Interparietal, length	3·2	2·4
„ „ breadth	9·4	9·0
Palate, length	14·2	12·1
Diastema	7·3	6·3
Length of palatine foramina	5·7	4·8
Length of upper molar series	4·4	3·8

The specimen here described and measured was obtained at Caconda by M. Anchieta.

The second species described by Peters, *S. Krebsi**, from Caffraria, shows no approximation to *S. Bocagei* and is very doubtfully separable from *S. pratensis*.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

June 22nd, 1892.—W. H. Hudleston, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read:—

“Contribution to a Knowledge of the Saurischia of Europe and Africa.” By Prof. H. G. Seeley, F.R.S., F.G.S.

The Saurischia are defined as terrestrial unguiculate Ornithomorpha, with pubic bones directed downward, inward, and forward to meet in a ventral union. The forms of the pelvic bones vary with the length of the limbs, the acetabulum becoming perforate, the ilium more extended, the pubis and ischium more slender, and the sacrum narrower as the limb-bones elongate. The order is regarded as including the Cetiosauria, Megalosauria, and Aristosuchia or Compsognatha.

The Cetiosaurian pelvis has been figured in the Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.; and a restoration is now given of the pelvis in *Megalosaurus*, *Streptospondylus*, and *Compsognathus*.

The characters of the skull are evidenced by description of the hinder part of the skull in *Megalosaurus* found at Kirtlington, and preserved in the Oxford University Museum. In form and proportions it closely resembles *Ceratosaurus*, and the corresponding region of the head in Jurassic Ornithosauria. The brain-cavity and cranial nerves are described, and contrasted with those of *Ceratosaurus*.

The skull in Cetiosauria, known from the American type *Diplodocus*, is identified in the European genus *Belodon*, which is regarded as a primitive Cetiosaurian.

Part 2 discusses the pelvis of *Belodon*, restored from specimens in the British Museum, and regarded as Cetiosaurian. A restoration of the shoulder-girdle is made, and found to resemble that in Ichthyosaurs, Anomodonts, and Dinosauria. The vertebræ in form and

* Säug. Mossamb. p. 165 (1852).